

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 8, wherein the first material and the second material comprise a single layer composite material.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The cannula as set forth in claim 3, wherein said composite material contains a solid state material and an organic polymer.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A cannula that exhibits a selected flow cross-section over its entire length so as to maintain a constant hydrostatic pressure in the cannula, said cannula configured to have a pliability that allows it to puncture a septum and a user's body, be positionable as near as possible to a desired target location and which can be moved in any direction when inserted, said cannula formed from at least one material which increases in pliability during use, wherein, prior to application, said cannula comprises a first material of a first thermally susceptible hardness and a second material having a second hardness, wherein, the thermally susceptible hardness of said first material decreases during use, wherein, the first material is or comprises a polymer.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 8, wherein the second hardness is lower, prior to use, than the hardness of the first material.

11. (Previously presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 10, wherein the first material at least partially surrounds the second material.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 10, wherein the hardness of the second material does not change during use.

14. (Previously Presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 8, wherein the material having the greater hardness at least partially surrounds the material having the lower hardness.

15-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 8, wherein its increase in pliability is completed within one hour, following the beginning of the use.

20. (Currently Amended) The cannula as set forth in claim [[15]] 8, wherein the material having the greater hardness is a second cannula which is removed during use.

21. (Original) The cannula as set forth in claim 20, wherein the materials of differing hardness are separated by a layer, at least in sections.

22-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A cannula that exhibits a selected flow cross-section over its entire length so as to maintain a constant hydrostatic pressure in the cannula, said cannula configured to have a pliability that allows it to puncture a septum and a user's body, be positionable as near as possible to a desired target location and which can be moved in any direction when inserted, said cannula formed from at least one material that increases in pliability during use, wherein the cannula comprises a water-absorbing material based on a polyamide of a first variable hardness that decreases in hardness upon water absorption, and a material having a second hardness.

34- 36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 33, wherein said water-absorbing material based on a polyamide of a first variable hardness comprises an outer material of said cannula, and said material having a second hardness comprises an inner material of said cannula.

38-53. (Canceled)

54. (Previously presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 8, wherein, the initial hardness of said first material equals that of a steel needle.

55. (Canceled)

56. (Previously presented) The cannula as set forth in claim 33, wherein, the initial hardness of said water-absorbing material equals that of a steel needle.